



# NEWS RELEASE

## UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

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### Wreaking Havoc

**KIRTLAND AFB, N.M.** — Before World War II, Kirtland served as a training base for pilots who ferried aircraft such as this Douglas A-20 Havoc over the Atlantic Ocean to Europe, where the warbirds were turned over to the Allies under the Lend Lease program. Since the pilots have to be civilian, not military, the training was done by TWA (Transcontinental and Western Airlines). TWA set up the Glen Fry Training Center at the Albuquerque airport, then moved into the Kirtland facilities before the paint was dry. Civilian pilots were paid \$1,000 per trip over the ocean, big bucks in those days. The only catch was that the pilots had to return to the U.S. aboard ships that had to run a German submarine gauntlet. The threat of sub attacks was why aircraft were flown instead of shipped. The A-20 in this photo bears French markings.



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**NOTE TO EDITORS:** *For more information about this release, please contact 1st Lt. Dave DuBois. The photo can be found at <http://www.kirtland.af.mil/pa/images/wreak.jpg>*

